

TUMBLEE!

ALICE PAMPHLET — N°8

TUMBLEE
2010
ALICE PAMPHLET
TUMBLEWEED

TUMBLEE

2010

ALICE PAMPHLET

TUMBLEWEED

TUMBLEWEED

**TUMBLE-
WEED**



ALICE

tumbleweed

renens / 2010

EPFL / ENAC / IA / ALICE
atelier de la conception de l'espace
fall 2010

contents

tumbleweed	6
Espace TILT	7
design process	10
production at ECAL Lab	16
assembly at Place du Corso	22
vernissage	36
team	46
acknowledgments	47

Tumbleweed is an installation built for the newly founded gallery Espace TILT in Renens. It was designed and built within two months by a small team of teachers and students of the ALICE Lab at EPFL in Lausanne.

The installation is acting both as a landmark for the rather hidden public space as well as an intimate vessel for people to gather and exchange.

Its spherical structure is entirely made out of steamed, softened wood planks, assembled to form an open interior space.

Entering the “room”, the surrounding city seems to be mapped on the endless surface of the sphere. Exterior is made into interior. The sky becomes the roof.

At night the installation acts as a large lantern. The neighboring buildings become screens and turn into a landscape of shadows. Place du Corso is inhabited by the structure and now perceived as an interior space itself.

Tumbleweed is an architectural artifact that engages the private with the public, the exterior with the interior and the ideal with the real in a mirroring effect: the terms of their relationships are multiplied and transformed into a new understanding.

ALICE-Team

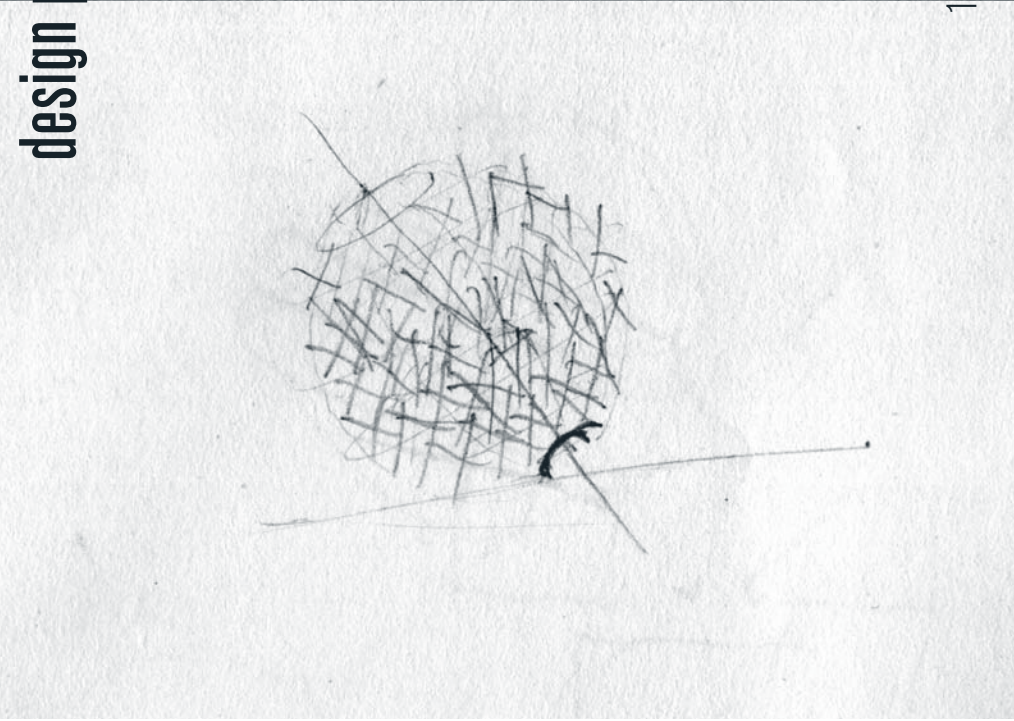
When we approached EPFL architecture lab ALICE in the summer of 2010, we were looking for architects/artists whose work could question the place of art and culture in the city. Our aim was to signify the presence of a small art gallery located in downtown Renens, a city going through major urban transformation.

In the context of Espace TILT’s inaugural exhibition entitled “Etat des lieux”, ALICE’s proposal took the shape of a large-scale architectural installation: a wooden sphere placed at the hearth of Place du Corso on Rue Neuve. Both open and closed, the sphere “worked” in a dual way: from the outside, it was perceived rather as an object that gave the gallery its presence on the street, while from the inside, it quickly felt like a living space, a place to rest, to play, to sit and discuss. The presence of the sphere transformed the surrounding urban space into a public place, a temporary forum for ideas and actions.

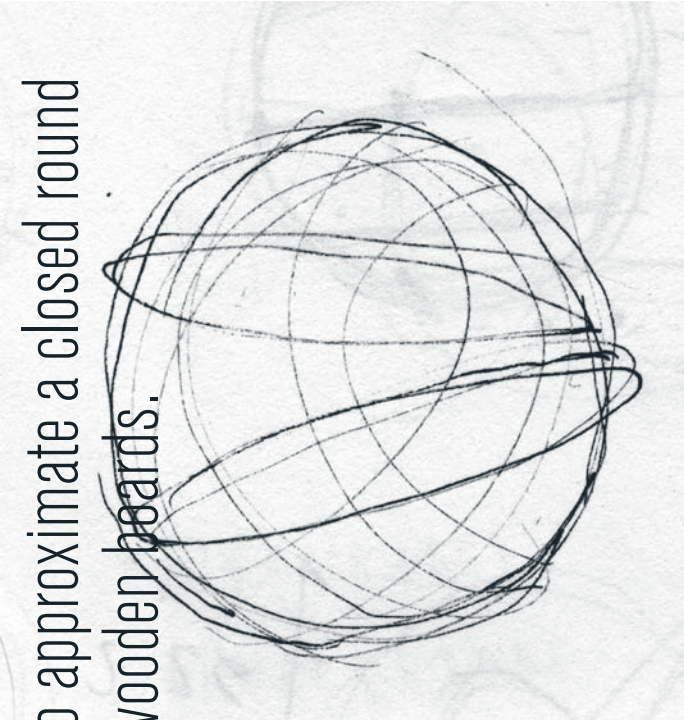
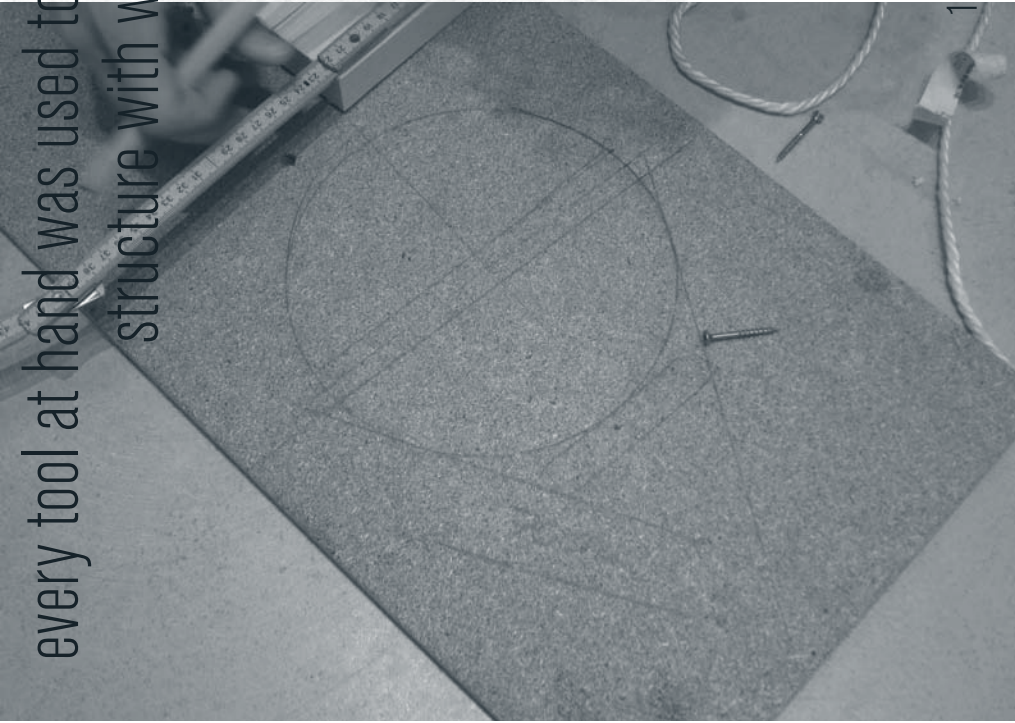
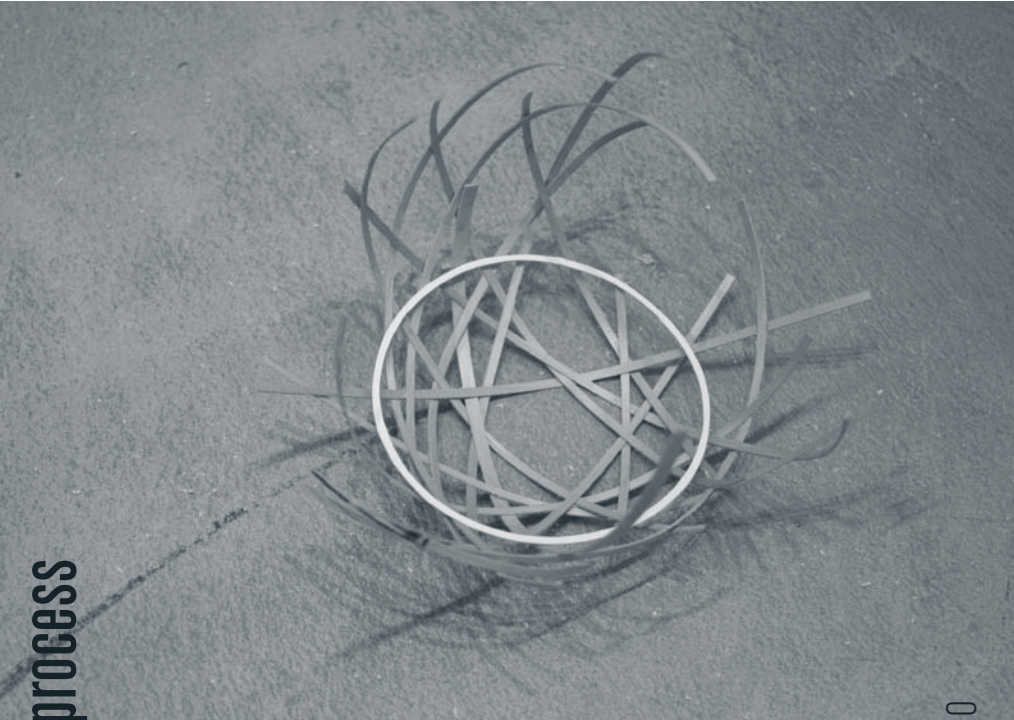
Caroline Dionne & Cedric van der Poel, Espace TILT

Espace TILT is a contemporary art space based in Renens. Through thematically constructed exhibitions, this non-profit independent association wishes to address current social issues, in open dialogue with the urban context and its inhabitants.



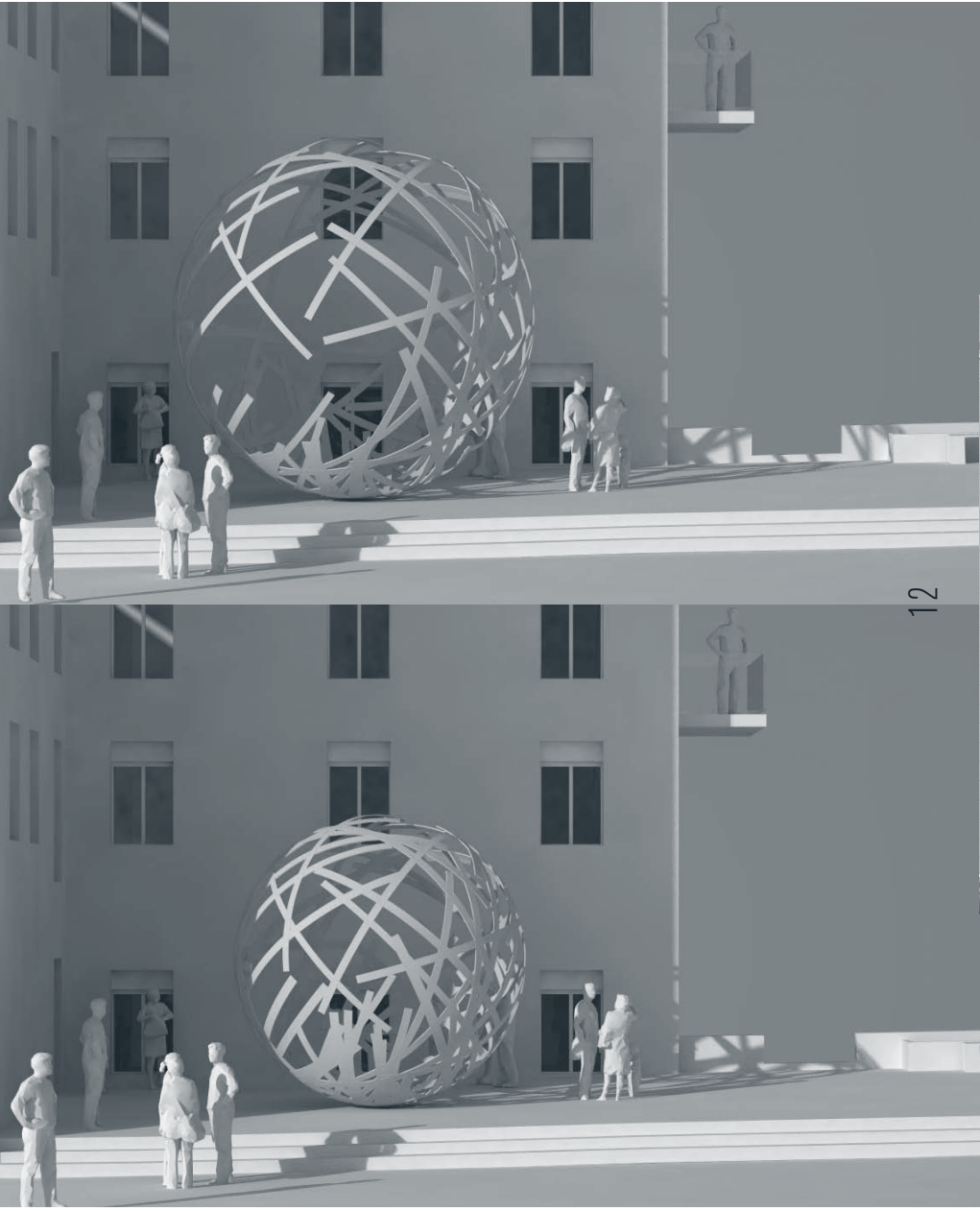


10



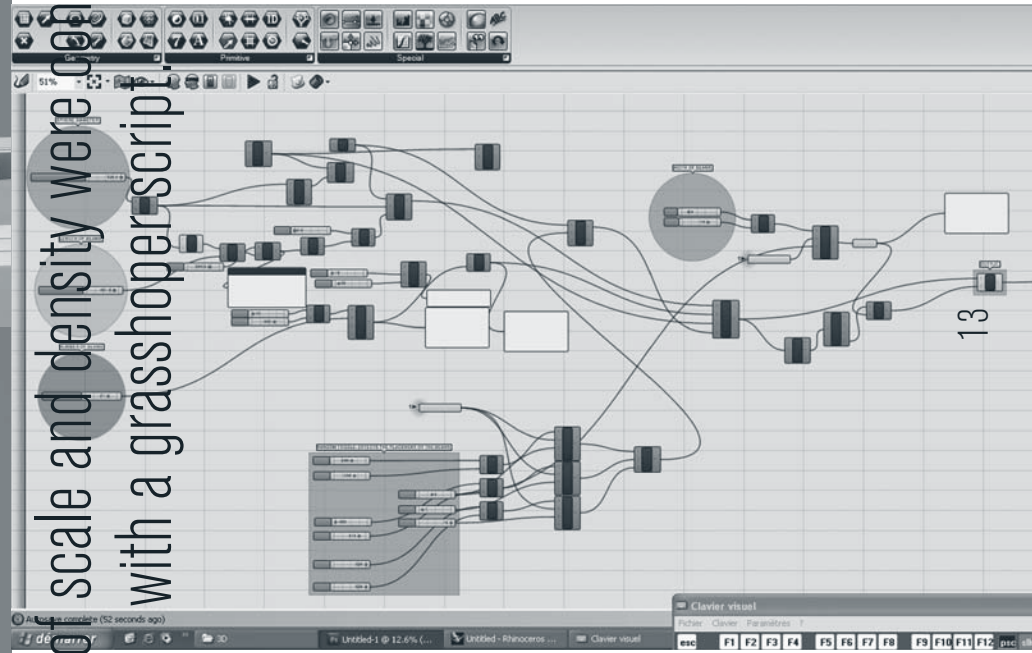
every tool at hand was used to approximate a closed round structure with wooden boards.

11



12

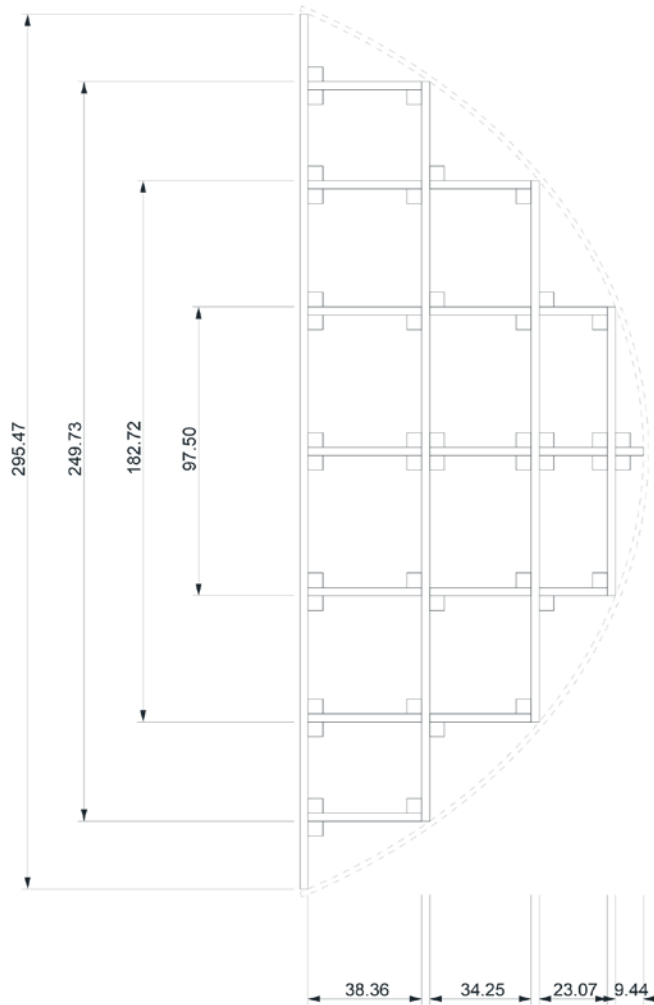
Ideas of scale and density were controlled with a grasshopper script.



13

The Mould_0.2

the mould was constantly adjusted to approach the ideal tension and curvature.



14



15

tot in length (for mould_0.2) with 60 cm height >> $825.7 + 268.52 + 171.25 + 69.21 + 9.44 = 1\ 344$
 1 x "3 plies" panel (200x500cm) cut in 60 cm >> $200 / 60 = 3.3 \Rightarrow 3 \times 500 = 1\ 500$ cm
This means that in theory we can make one mould with one panel!



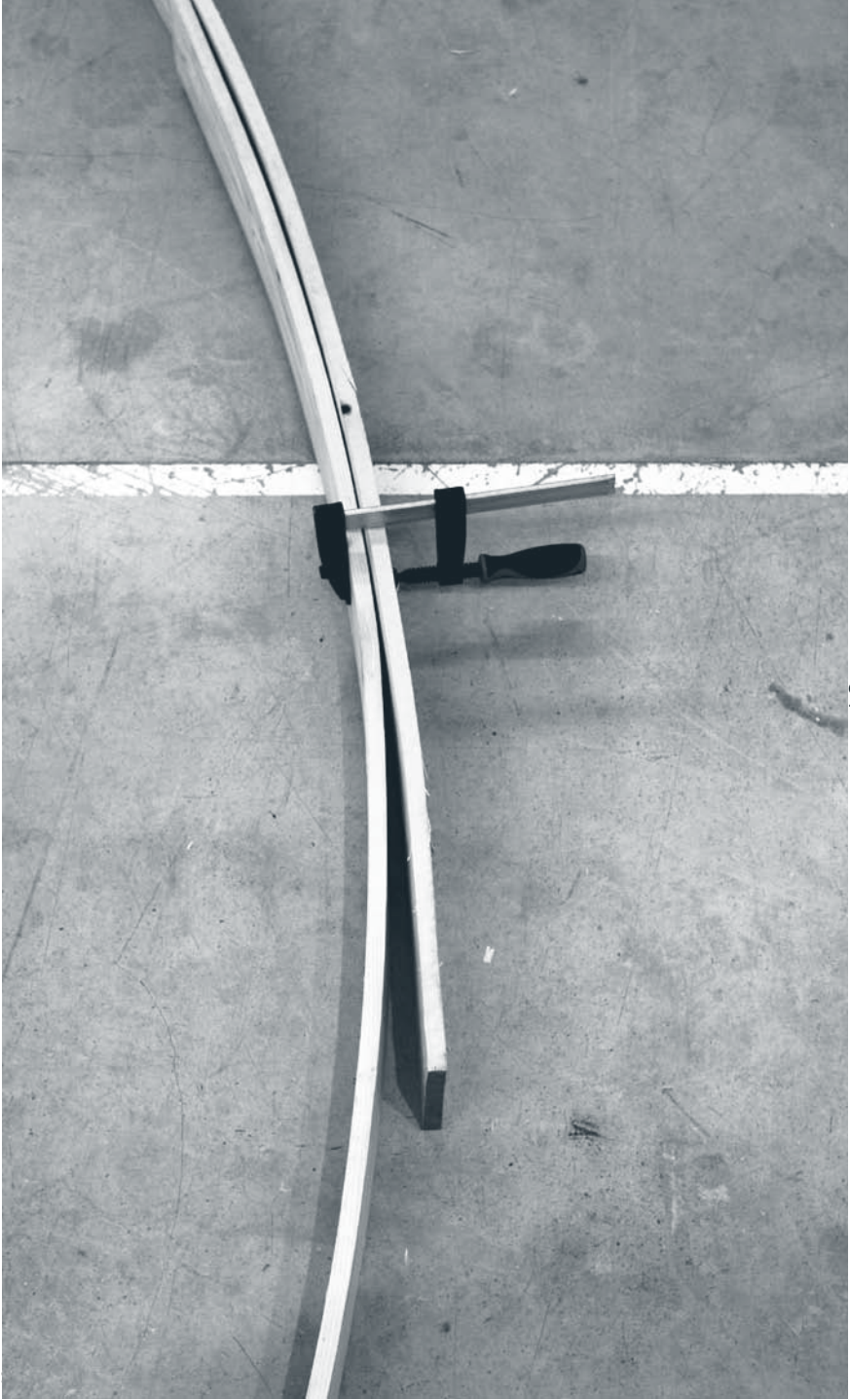
production at ECAL Lab

16

wooden boards were steamed and bent around the mould



17



18



19



20



finally the anisotropic property of building timber produced the right pattern of curvatures to build a perfect sphere.

21

assembly at Place du Corso

During three days the installation has been mounted in front of the gallery Espace TILLT.

22



23





24

25





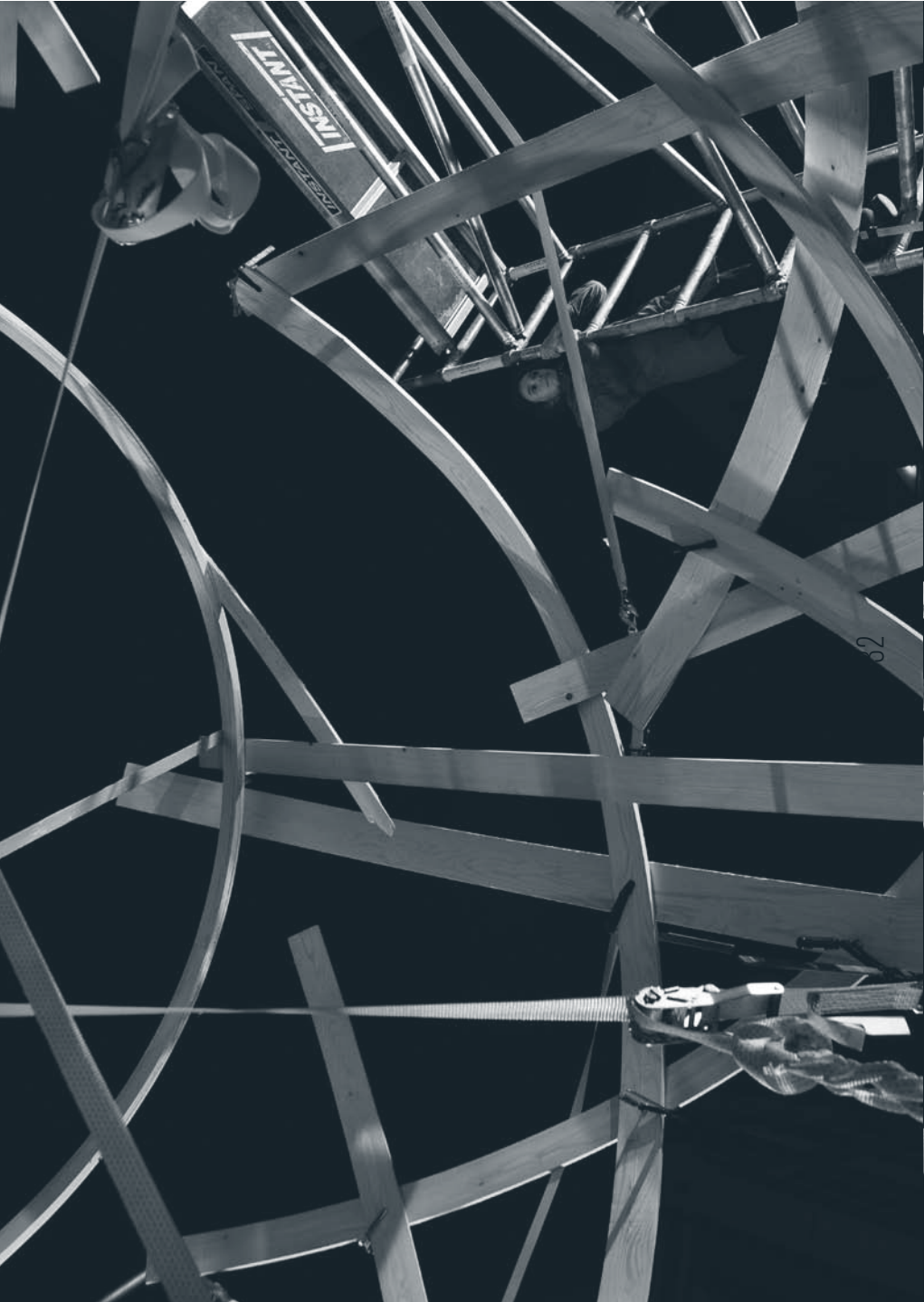
28

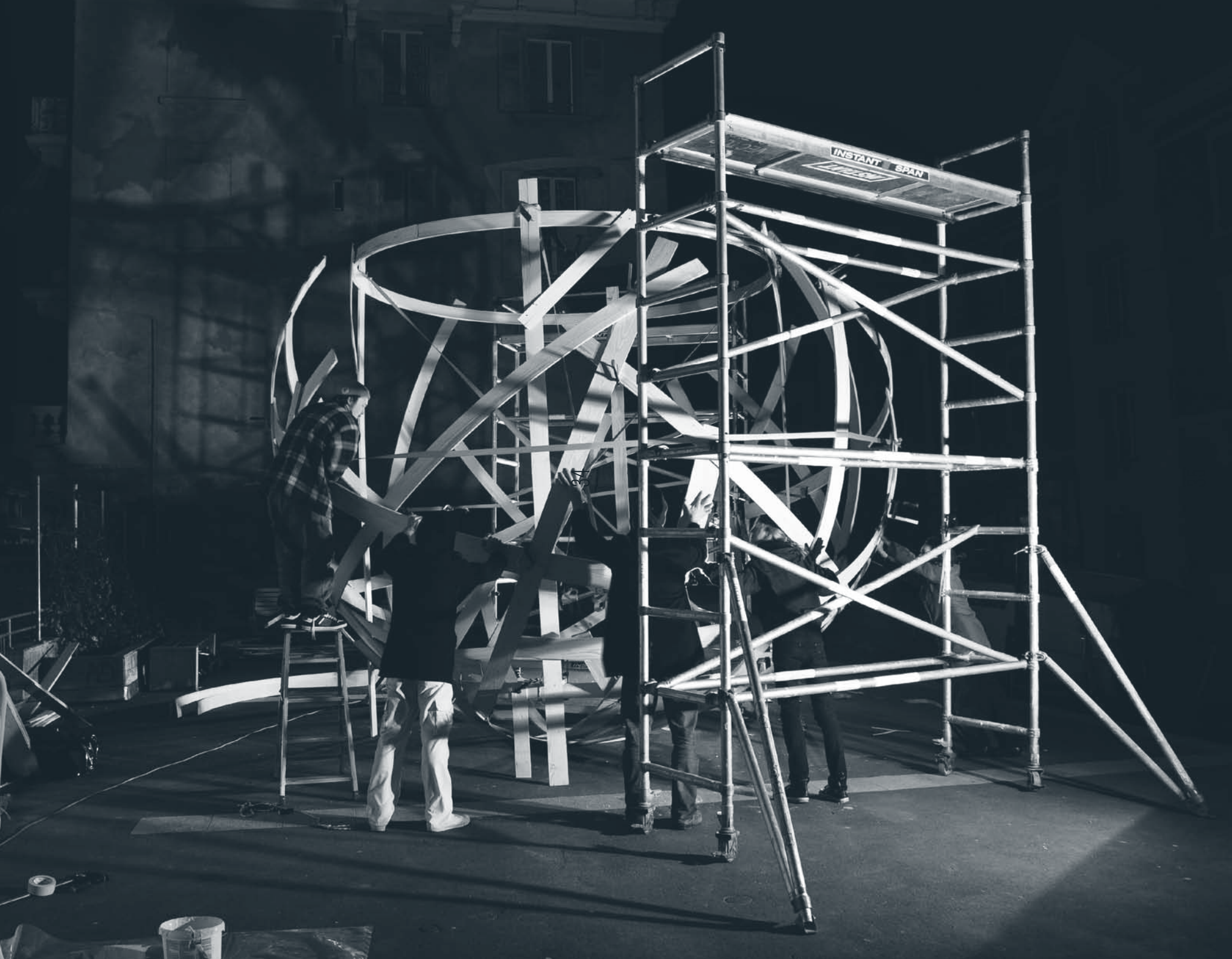
29



03

13

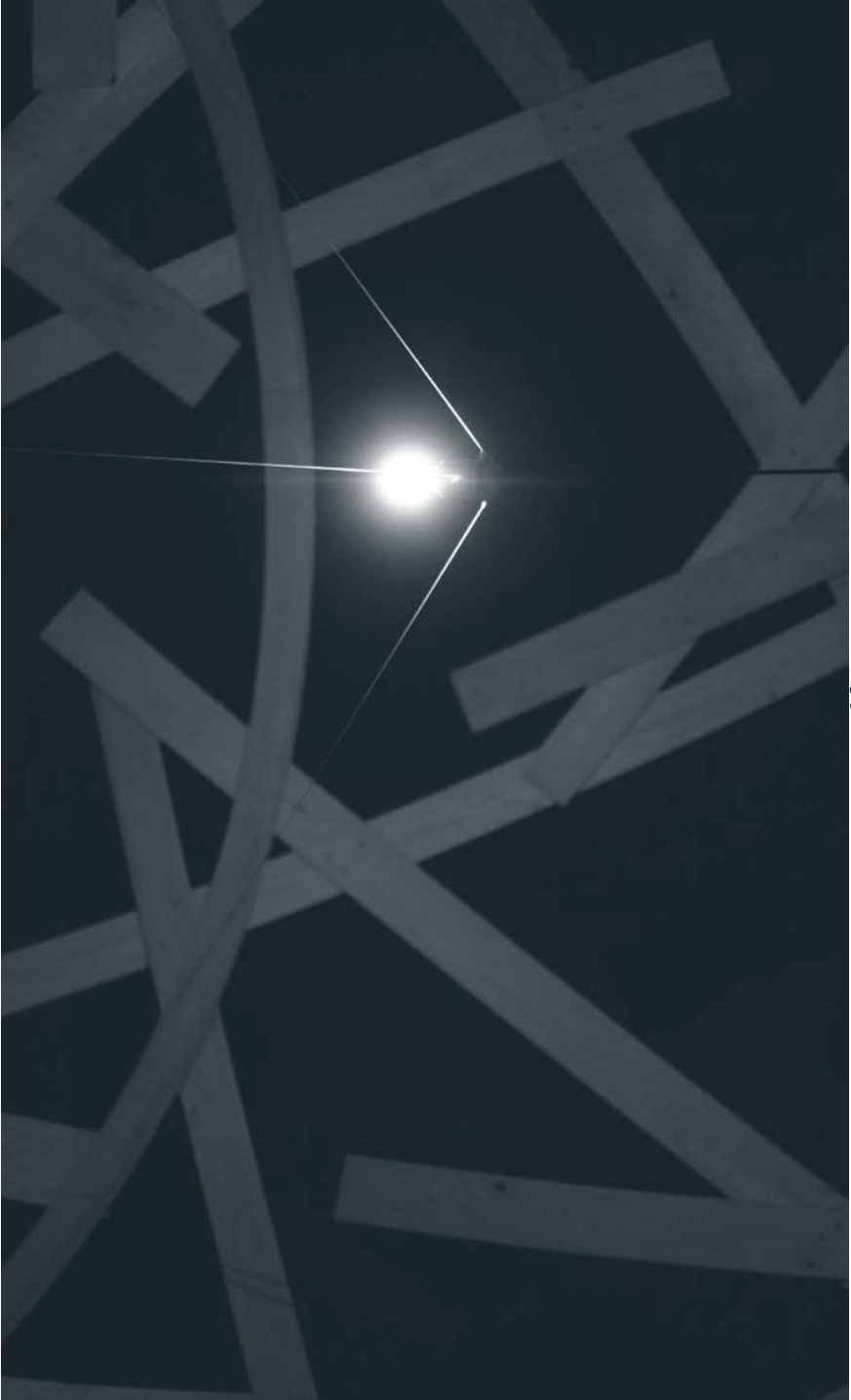




Space TILT

At the opening of the new gallery Espace TILT, “Tumbleweed” was welcoming the visitors and changed the perception of the surrounding esplanade, which momentarily appeared as a place that could be invested, occupied, inhabited: as a container of spaces, of ideas, of actions.





38





40

41



42

43



44

45

alice team

**Dieter Dietz, Aline Dubach, Loïc Jacot-Guillarmod,
Alexander Hertel, Darius Karacsony, Tibo Smith**

booklet, concept and design

Jonas Voegeli, Aline Dubach, Caroline Pachoud (Colour Concept)

photography

Ursula Schneider

this project would not have been possible without the significant contributions of the following sponsors and institutions:

ENAC Faculty, EPFL Lausanne;

Institute of Architecture, IA EPFL Lausanne

Ville de Renens

Avec le soutien de la Loterie Romande

Aide à la création du Canton de Vaud

Richter, Dahl Rocha & Associés

nibuXs

Le comptoir du bois SA, Lausanne

Louis Pisoli SA, Renens

special thanks to

Caroline Dionne, Cedric van der Poel, Marc Parlange,

Doyen ENAC EPFL; Nicolas Henchoz, Director EPFL+ECAL lab;

Ines Lumunière, Director SAR, EPFL; Bruno Marchand, Director

IA, EPFL, Eveline Galatis

for their wide spread support.

acknowledgments

46

47

**http://
alice.epfl.ch**